AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5 and 10 and add new claims 20 and 21 as follows:

1. (previously presented) A biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising:

a sufficient amount of a wetting agent solution incorporated into a cross-linked gelatin to permit uniform wetting of the gelatin in the presence of an aqueous solution, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, sorbitan esters, phosphatides, and alkyl amines.

2. (previously presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is impregnated with the gelatin prior to a foaming process of the gelatin.

3. (previously presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is mixed with the gelatin prior to a foaming process of the gelatin.

4. (original) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is coated over the surface of the gelatin.

5. (currently amended) A method for decreasing the hydration time of a hemostatic cross linked composition which method comprises, prior to hydration of said cross-linked gelatin composition, incorporating a biocompatible wetting agent solution with said cross-linked gelatin, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of ~~polyoxyalkylenes~~, ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, sorbitan esters, phosphatides, and alkyl amines.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said incorporation is achieved by mixing the wetting agent with the gelatin prior to foaming said cross-linked gelatin.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said incorporation is achieved by impregnating the gelatin with the wetting agent prior to foaming said cross-linked gelatin.

8. (original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said incorporation is achieved by coating the wetting agent over the surface of the gelatin.

9. (previously presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition is bioabsorbable.

10. (currently amended) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, further comprising ~~one or more compositions selected from the group consisting of~~ a growth factor ~~factors, thrombus enhancing agents, and antimicrobial agents~~.

11. (original) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the wetting agent comprises 0.1 to 10 weight percent of the gelatin.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the coating is achieved by applying to the surface of the gelatin a solution consisting of a liquid solvent and the wetting agent, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent in the solution is from 1 to 20 percent of the solution.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the liquid solvent is evaporated from the surface of the gelatin.

14. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent, after evaporation of the liquid solvent, is from 0.01 to 5 weight percent of the gelatin composition.

15. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic sponge of Claim 1, wherein the gelatin is sterilized and packaged for use in surgical procedures.

16. (previously presented) A kit of parts for preparing a biocompatible, hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition comprising a syringe and a non-hydrated pledget, said pledget consisting of a wetting agent incorporated into a cross-linked gelatin, wherein the wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylamide, sodium lauryl sulfate, a block co-colymer of poly(ethyleneoxide)) and polypropylene oxide), and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5 further comprising foaming said cross-linked gelatin.

18. (previously presented) A biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising:

a sufficient amount of a wetting agent solution incorporated into a cross-linked gelatin to permit uniform wetting of the gelatin in the presence of an aqueous solution, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylamide, sodium lauryl sulfate, a block co-colymer of poly(ethyleneoxide)) and polypropylene oxide), and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate.

19. (previously presented) A method for decreasing the hydration time of a hemostatic cross linked composition which method comprises, prior to hydration of said cross-linked gelatin composition, incorporating a biocompatible wetting agent solution with said cross-linked gelatin, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylamide, sodium lauryl sulfate, a block co-colymer of poly(ethyleneoxide)) and polypropylene oxide), and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate.

20. (new) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, further comprising a thrombus enhancing agent.

21. (new) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, further comprising an antimicrobial agent.